

## Book Review

TRAITÉ DE ZOOLOGIE. Anatomie, systématique, biologie. Tome V. Metazoaire (Suite) — fascicule 4 —Céphalopodes. Edited by Katharina Mangold. 1989. Editions Masson, 120 Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris 75006. 804 pages, 454 figures. Price: 1100Fr.

The publication of this long awaited book completes the coverage on Mollusca in the *Traité de Zoologie*. The book is divided into 22 chapters, i.e., Introduction, General organization, Buoyancy and locomotion, Skin, Nervous system, Sense organs, Endocrinology, Digestive system and digestion, Development of blood system and coelomic space, Respiratory and circulatory systems, Coelom and coelomic cavities, Excretory system and excretion, Sex organs, Reproduction, Growth and life span, Embryology, Predators, Parasites, Geographical distribution, Economy and fisheries, Migration and vertical distribution, Systematics, Evolution.

This book was prepared under the skilled editorial hands of Dr. Katharina Mangold, Directeur de Recherche of C.N.R.S. and all chapters were authored by active cephalopod biologists. It is the first single volume book covering all aspects of cephalopod anatomy and biology in recent years. The increasing awareness in recent times of the importance of cephalopods in commercial fisheries, in biomedical research, and in the marine food web has resulted in increasing research activity on these animals in the past two decades. This book reflects many of these advances. The bibliography section of each chapter reveals that most have cited publications as current as 1986 or 1987, surprising when one considers the regrettable lapses between the authors' completing manuscripts and the publication date. This delay in publication is a cause of the work's major weakness. For instance, the footnote of the manuscript of the Fisheries chapter indicates the manuscript was submitted in March 1980, the content indeed reflects the state of affairs at that time, but the rapid development of squid fisheries on the Patagonia Shelf region in the past decade was not mentioned despite some post-1980 publications listed in the bibliography.

The reviews in most chapters are comprehensive and with a good selection in the bibliography, and include the unpublished data of some authors, e.g. Dr. Anna Bidder. All chapters are well illustrated.

This book will be an invaluable reference to all cephalopod workers, both beginners and advanced, and to anyone who wishes to gain a general, but more than elementary, knowledge of the group. The price tag of 1100Fr (about A\$260) is perhaps high for a book, but I consider it of good value when compared with other books in the same price range. At least, I believe anyone who is seriously interested in cephalopods should have access to this book.

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